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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR FOR JANUARY 3, 2005

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for January 3, 2005. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

EVRENSEL / RADIKAL / CUMHURIYET / GUNDEM: Hundreds of people in Kiziltepe held a demonstration, demanding that security forces be tried in the courts of law. A thousand people formed a human chain for Ugur and Ahmet Kaymaz and shouted slogans saying "Prosecute the murderers" and "Governor, Resign!"

EVRENSEL: Allegations about corruption and allegations that the cadres are being taken over by employees loyal to the AKP (Justice and Development Party) are on the agenda of the Diyarbakir Provincial Directorate of Education. Within one year, three directors have been removed from office at the Directorate. According to Egitim-Sen (Education Union), a hundred AKP supporters have been assigned to Principal or Assistant Principal positions in forty schools.

EVRENSEL: The Tunceli Prosecutor started an investigation against Huseyin Tunc, the Provincial Chairperson of the EMEP (The Party of Labor), on the grounds that he delivered a speech in an activity that young people had organized in order to protest guards who had instigated provocation during the celebration of Turkish Republic's Foundation on October 29.

OZGUR GUNDEM: The Viransehir Court of Peace convicted a member of DEHAP (Democratic People's Party) Provincial Youth Branch at Urfa on charges of showing resistance to police yesterday.

OZGUR GUNDEM: "Assembly Initiative of Free Citizens Movement" in Mersin declared that it is supporting the Democratic Society Movement.

MILLI GAZETE: A group of terrorists (allegedly) were trying to cross the (Turkish-Iraqi) border at Sirnak in order to carry out terrorist activities in Turkey. During the armed conflict between the security forces and terrorists, two terrorists, who are (allegedly) members of the illegal terrorist organization PKK, have been killed.

HURRIYET (CUKUROVA): Hulusi Kilic, the Consul of Turkey in Syria says that he is very pleased with the establishment of the recent amicable relationships between Syria and Turkey. Kilic says that he is full of hope about the latest developments between the two countries and points out that the presence of the Turkish consulate in Halep (Aleppo) is very significant with regard to the future of the relationships both countries.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

11. EVRENSEL: Cotton prices have sharply fallen since last year. The farmers could not harvest the cotton on the fields due to the high costs of fuel oil they need for trucking. Although the cotton produced in Diyarbakir is the highest quality cotton in world markets, the Assembly President of the Diyarbakir Chamber of Agriculture, Sabahattin Karahan, says, "due to the ineffective agricultural policies, Turkey cannot benefit much from this product".

REID